

2024-2025 Sydney Water Community Grants Program Guidelines

Background and purpose

Sydney Water's annual Community Grants Program supports local community groups to deliver projects within Greater Sydney, the Blue Mountains, and the Illawarra area, that help build thriving and sustainable communities.

Through our Community Grants Program, eligible community groups can apply for a grant of up to \$10,000 (minimum of \$5,000). These grants are not for-profit initiatives. By partnering with the community, we can make an even bigger impact. This grant can help turn your creative ideas into impactful actions that will drive a sustainable water future.

Applicants must read these [Guidelines](#) and the [Terms and Conditions](#) before submitting an application. By participating in the Program, you agree to be bound by these Guidelines and the Terms and Conditions.

Please read these [FAQs](#) for further information.

Program themes and focus areas

Water is an essential part of daily life and is at the heart of the places where we love to live and play. We couldn't imagine a world without it. How we value water connects us with our environment and each other.

The 2024 Community Grants Program is seeking projects under the theme **DRIVING A SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE** with a focus on **water education, healthy waterways or water conservation**.

Projects must have outcomes which impact one or more of these focus areas, which are detailed below.

1. Water education

Projects that educate our community about our connection to water, its cultural value, water in our environment and water efficiency to ensure a resilient water future.

Your project must have a clear call to action that will inspire, and drive behaviour change surrounding water in the community.

Example educational topics:

- Natural and urban water cycle, where water comes from and goes after use
- First Nations connection to water/waterways
- Impacts of our changing climate to water
- Water conservation to change water use behaviours
- Wastewater education, e.g. including what not to put in the sink and down the toilet
- Healthy stormwater management

Example initiatives:

- Create educational assets, such as children's books, podcasts, videos, posters to circulate with the community
- Engaging workshops, informative seminars, interactive events
- Other creative methods to educate and engage the community

2. Healthy Waterways

Projects that support the health of our waterways including rivers, beaches and green spaces which interact with waterways.

Your project must benefit the health of our local aquatic environments.

Example initiatives:

- Cleaning up rivers, beaches, lakes etc.
- Litter reduction in aquatic spaces
- Promoting aquatic biodiversity

3. Water conservation

Projects that reduce, reuse, recycle water, to lower water consumption and drive a resilient water future.

Your project must result in significant water savings through the development and implementation of water saving technologies, devices, appliances and systems.

Examples initiatives:

- rainwater capture and reuse
- water recycling
- installing water saving devices
- developing smart technologies to save water.

What the grant can be spent on

The grant may be used to pay for the cost of activities which support the delivery of the project within Greater Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the Illawarra.

These activities could include:

- project materials
- water saving devices & products
- personnel
- insurance
- advertising and printing costs
- translation, interpretation and language facilitators
- workshops or training events
- venue hire

Grants are not to be used to pay for private plumbing upgrades or maintenance of existing water infrastructure.

Who can apply

Grant applications are sought from community-minded organisations and groups who share the vision of driving a sustainable water future.

The Applicant must have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or be registered as a not-for-profit organisation.

The Program is open to (but not limited to) the following groups **within the Sydney Water's area of operation (Greater Sydney, the Blue Mountains, and the Illawarra)**:

- not-for-profit organisations
- social enterprise groups
- social groups and sports clubs
- education institutions (schools, universities, TAFE NSW colleges)
- content creators, e.g., artists, writers, filmmakers, bloggers, photographers, designers
- volunteer groups
- councils working in partnership with community groups
- public health or allied health body and housing co-operatives who can facilitate grassroots projects with community groups.

The following people/groups cannot apply:

- Sydney Water employees/contractors or their immediate family members
- organisations that in Sydney Water's opinion, expose Sydney Water to a reputational risk
- organisations with links to negative impacts on the environment or health
- anyone else or any other proposed projects or initiatives that Sydney Water considers inappropriate or not aligned with its business objectives, values, or policies.

Application process

1. Check that your project and organisation is eligible for the grant and that you meet the [Terms and Conditions](#).
2. Before applying for a grant, refer to [Community Grants Application Questions](#) to understand what information you need to gather for the application and the questions you will be asked.
3. Submit online by **5:00pm Monday 1 July 2024** (<https://sydneywater.good2givegrants.org>)

If you're unsure whether your project is eligible, email the Sydney Water Community Grants team at communitygrants@sydneywater.com.au

Selection process

- Sydney Water subject matter experts will assess full applications against a scoring matrix based on the selection criteria outlined in these Guidelines (see below).
- Highly scored projects will be independently validated by Good2Give, the Sydney Water Community Grant partner.

- Shortlisted applicants may undergo additional due diligence checks by Sydney Water or a representative. Applicants will be required to provide additional information as reasonably required to assist with those checks.
- **Successful applicants will be notified in August 2024.**
- Sydney Water will publicly announce the 2024 Community Grant recipients
- Grant funding will be distributed to grant recipients by Good2Give by the end of August 2024.
- All applicants will be notified about the outcome of their application by email.

Selection criteria

Grant applications will be assessed and scored by a Sydney Water subject matter expert panel using the following criteria and scoring:

<p>Strategic alignment Weighting 25%</p>	<p>How well the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aligns with this year's theme of Driving a Sustainable Water Future, with a focus on at least one of the focus areas: Water Education, Healthy Waterways, Water Conservation.
<p>Impact Weighting 25%</p>	<p>How well the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • defines objectives and plans to deliver outcomes within one of the 2024 Community Grant focus areas • provides environmental, sustainable, educational and/or cultural benefits to our community • delivers outcomes with longevity and a continuing impact.
<p>Evaluation Weighting 15%</p>	<p>How the project will be measured, which could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data, surveys, interviews • before and after measures e.g. water usage, water sampling etc • photo journals, video diaries, storytelling, graphs etc <p>How well the project describes expected outcomes.</p>
<p>Engagement Weighting 20%</p>	<p>Water education, how well the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engages and educates the community about critical water education topics • drives behaviour change • empowers participants to learn new skills and knowledge and apply this in the community. • improves advocacy, leadership and provides an ongoing legacy for the community. <p>Healthy Waterways and/or Water Conservation, how well the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engages and educates the community about the project and outcomes to be delivered. • empowers participants to learn new skills and knowledge and apply this in the community • improves advocacy, leadership and provides an ongoing legacy for the community.

Project plan and budget Weighting 15%	Grant applications must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a project plan outlining key activities, responsibilities, and timings • outline a budget breakdown showing how funds will be spent and show how this will be done in a cost-effective manner • document any additional funding or in-kind donations received, beyond this grant, to help deliver the project • identify project and participant risks and how they will be addressed.
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Successful applicants

The full grant amount will be paid to successful applicants, after results have been announced.

Sydney Water will contact successful grant recipients throughout the project period to discuss the project's progress and offer support for any challenges or concerns that may need to be addressed. **Projects must be completed by the end of May 2025.**

All grant recipients will be asked to complete and return a final project Completion Report (**by June 2025**) using the template provided to them. Ongoing evaluation, budget spend, risk assessments, learnings, photos, and other evidence are to be gathered and provided to Sydney Water to be used for promotion or case studies and to inform the next round of grants/education.

Good2Give will distribute the grant payments by electronic funds transfer once approved by Sydney Water.

Key dates

6 May 2024	Applications open (9am)
1 July 2024	Applications close (5pm)
August 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Sydney Water Grant recipients announced • Payment of grant funds • Projects underway
May 2025	Projects completed
June 2025	Completion reports due

Your privacy

Sydney Water and Good2Give collect and use your personal information to assess your grant application as part of the Community Grants Program. Your personal and business information will be shared with designated Sydney Water and Good2Give employees and disposed of in accordance with our record keeping obligations.

Successful applicants' personal and business information may be disclosed as part of Sydney Water awarding applicants, including internal and external publications. To learn

more about how we manage your personal information, please refer to [Sydney Water](#) and [Good2Give's](#) privacy policies.